

Brownfields Funding and Technical Assistance Sources

-Kathryn Whiteman

At the Brownfields 2002 conference in November, ICMA led a Marketplace of Ideas session titled, "Improving Your Chances for Federal Funding in Small Communities." It was well attended, and included two knowledgeable speakers giving advice and tips on that topic, one of whom is on the giving end at a federal agency and the other who has successfully received a variety of grants and other resources. The session ended with a brainstorming activity where participants split into groups and recorded creative sources of funding and/or technical assistance that they knew about or had tapped themselves. As there was not adequate time to discuss all of the findings, the moderator, Kathryn Whiteman, ICMA Project Manager, promised to post the results on brownfieldsource.org. The results of the brainstorming activities are listed below.

Please keep in mind that at this point, this list is not meant to supply names of specific grants or how to get them, but instead to start brownfields practitioners thinking creatively about where to look for funding. If you have any other tips or resources you would like added to this list, or more information on any of the listed items, please email them to Kathryn Whiteman (kwhiteman@icma.org). The list will be periodically updated and expanded.

Some tips that were shared included:

- Search for unusual/atypical sources of money such as FEMA/USCG/USDA
- Work on getting Federal/State earmarks through legislation
- Check with State environmental and economic development agencies for State grants, loans and technical assistance
- Use state bonds funding a state brownfields program
- Get funding for the project in pieces w/different agencies (i.e. use small grants and loans for each part of the project)
- Use taxing authority (abatement & levy) ex: EZ/ECs, TIF, Brownfields incentives-Federal Tax Payer Relief Act
- Apply development fees to brownfields cleanup and redevelopment projects
- Partner across jurisdictional lines
- Have groups of businesses apply for loans (ex. SBA loans to clusters of small businesses)
- Partner with university planning or environmental departments etc. (i.e. students as cheap labor and free publicity—interns, master's projects, etc.)
- Contact your local cooperative extension for technical assistance
- Develop a wide variety of contacts – outside your usual suspects
- Approach local utilities for support/match/coordination
- Use tax credits (ex. statewide redevelopment program)
- Use historic preservation programs
- Find creative ways for matching funds (ex. bottle/can deposit)
- Use property as collateral for match
- Work with banks with Community Reinvestment Act funds

- Use tobacco settlement money (where applicable)
- Use casino revenues (where applicable)
- Use lottery revenues (where applicable)

Sources of funding and technical assistance:

Federal Agencies

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA):** Funding for housing in small communities; Rural Business Development Grant for small businesses; rural utilities funds; rural housing funds; rural business and industry funds; technical assistance; rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities
USDA Forest Service- technical assistance, Urban and Community Forestry program
Urban Resources Partnership- funding and technical assistance to education and restoration efforts for community-based projects
- **U.S. Department of Commerce:**
Economic Development Administration (EDA)- planning grants/assistance; infrastructure grants; technical assistance; revolving loan funds; help for economically distressed communities
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)- Coastal Resource Coordinator Program- assessment and remediation of contaminated coastal sites; Coastal Zone Management Program-funds and tech assistance for feasibility studies, site assessments and master plan development
- **U.S. Department of Defense:**
U.S Army Corps of Engineers- technical engineering assistance; dredging; Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)
- **U.S. Department of Energy (DOE):** Brightfields/renewable energy development, Rebuild America program
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** pilot programs; assessment grants;Revolving Loan Funds (RLF); Clean up; Job training; Targeted assistance grants; Environmental Justice grants; Brownfields Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) program; State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):** Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); Section 108; Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) funds; Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities
Department of Community Affairs- Planning Assistance
- **U.S. Department of the Interior:**
National Park Service - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance; Urban Park and Recreation Recovery; Federal Lands-to-Parks Program
US Fish and Wildlife- technical consultation and assistance regarding habitat restoration or protection and ecosystem conservation; Land and Water Conservation Fund grants
- **U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT):** Transportation Outreach Program; funds for recreational trails, bicycle and pedestrian projects; funds for ADA

compliance; Intermodal Grant Program (parking garage facility, waterfront district); ISTEA/Tea-21

Coast Guard- Boating Improvement Program (community boat ramp, canoe launch)

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)- funding and technical assistance to programs to improve interstate highways and affiliated roadways; Transportation and Community System Preservation Pilots; Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)- funding and technical assistance to programs encouraging development or rehabilitation of rail infrastructure and technologies

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)- funding and technical assistance to local and regional transit initiatives

U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD)- technical assistance for port facilities and shipyard revitalization

- **U.S. General Services Administration:** federal properties discounted up to 100% when transferred to state or local governments through public benefit conveyances
- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA):** guaranteed loans, financial management, technical and government-contracting assistance to current and prospective small business owners
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** Flood Management Programs; Emergency Shelters; Mitigation/ Emergency Planning; Assistance to locate outside of floodplain

Possible State Resources

- Revolving Loan Funds
- Site Assessment Funds
- Site Remediation Funds
- Revitalization Funds
- Library Funds
- Historic Preservation/Restoration Funds
- Parks/Recreation/Trails/Open Space/Greenspace Funds
- Purchase of Development Rights programs
- Unique state programs such as Basin Boards Grants from the Florida Water Management Districts

Non-Governmental Resources

- Large Corporations and Foundations: ex. Kellogg Foundation (loan fund for high risk business development loans such as youth entrepreneurial development); etc
- Sports Foundations: ex. Major League Baseball Field of Dreams, National Soccer Foundation, Women's Sports Foundation, Brownfieldgolf.com, etc.
- Energy Companies: emergency shelter generator donation or loans, help promoting Star Energy programs

- Greenspace and Recreation Organizations: American Community Gardening Association; American Trails; America Walks; National Center for Bicycling and Walking; National Recreation and Park Association; Trust for Public Land; Rails to Trails Conservancy; Wallace Reader's Digest Funds' Urban Parks Initiative and the Urban Parks Institute, etc.

Links to Lists of Funding Sources

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance- <http://www.cfda.gov>

Kansas Grants Clearinghouse- <http://www.kansasgrants.org>

EPA Brownfields Funding Sources- <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/mmatters.htm#fund>

EPA Office of Water; Funding and Grants- <http://www.epa.gov/water/funding.html>

EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds; Funding -

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/funding.html>

The Grantsmanship Center- <http://www.tgci.com>

Fedworld (Department of Commerce)- <http://www.fedworld.gov>

Council on Foundations- <http://www.cof.org/links/memberindex.htm>

The Foundation Center, Grantmaker search-

http://fdncenter.org/funders/grantmaker/gws_corp/corp1.html

The Foundation Center, RFP Bulletin- <http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/index.jhtml>

Internet Prospector, Foundations- <http://www.internet-prospector.org/found.html>

Thompson and Thompson, Grantmaking Public Charities- <http://www.t-tlaw.com/rs-16.shtml>

Grantsmart.org- <http://www.grantsmart.org/search/search003.html>

About, Inc., Nonprofit Charitable Orgs- <http://nonprofit.miningco.com/index.htm>

Association of Small Foundations- http://smallfoundations.org/member_web_pages

Grant Select- <http://www.grantselect.com>

Online Resources for Proposal/Grant Writing

U.S. EPA Grantwriting Tutorial- <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/seahome/grants.html>

CFDA, Developing And Writing Grant Proposals- <http://www.cfda.gov/public/cat-writing.htm>

The Foundation Center, Proposal Writing Short Course-

<http://fdncenter.org/learn/shortcourse/prop1.html>

Grant help- <http://granthelp.clarityconnect.com/school.htm>

Grant Proposal.com- <http://www.grantproposal.com/>

Grantseeking in Minnesota, Writing a Successful Grant Proposal-

<http://www.mcf.org/mcf/grant/writing.htm>

Non-Profit Guides, <http://www.npguides.org/>

Deborah Kluge, Grantwriting Resources-

<http://www.proposalwriter.com/grants.html#Grantwriting>

Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Basic Elements of Grantwriting-

<http://www.cpb.org/grants/grantwriting.html>

Proposal Writing Tips

- Read directions for application carefully to ensure you know exactly what is required.

- Do not make assumptions of reviewers.
- Avoid jargon and acronyms.
- Do not just reiterate buzzwords.
- Be innovative.
- Be passionate but realistic.
- Be specific: I would like \$__ in order to do_____.
- Carefully check grammar, spelling, and typos.
- Ask someone else to review it.